

REMARKS

Claims 16, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and 36 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 through 15, 17 – 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, and 33 – 35 have been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the remarks contained herein.

ELECTIONS/RESTRICTIONS

The Office Action acknowledges Applicant's election of Claims 16, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, and 36, with traverse, and the withdrawal of the non-elected claims from consideration. Applicant maintains that a search of the withdrawn claims will not place an undue burden upon the Examiner. However, to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant now cancels the non-elected claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 16, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 32 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motomura et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,456,347) in view of Itoh et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,841,496). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 16 recites, in part, "a first retardation plate arranged between the polarizer and the second substrate" and "a second retardation plate arranged between the polarizer and the first retardation plate." The Motomura et al. reference appears to disclose a first retardation plate 12, located between a first polarizer plate 13 and a liquid crystal panel 11, and a second retardation plate 14, located between a second polarizer plate 15 and the liquid crystal panel 11 (Figure 2). The first and second

retardation plates are located on opposite sides of the liquid crystal panel 11. The Itoh et al. reference appears to disclose a polarizer 13 and a phase plate 19 between the polarizer 13 and an upper substrate 12 (Figure 1). Neither the Motomura et al. reference or the Itoh et al. reference disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, "a first retardation plate arranged between the polarizer and the second substrate" and "a second retardation plate arranged between the polarizer and the first retardation plate" as claimed.

Claim 16 also recites, in part, "wherein a twist angle of the liquid crystal is 230 to 260 degrees." The Office Action concedes that the Motomura et al. reference fails to disclose this feature of Applicant's invention (See 7/9/03 Office Action at 3, last two sentences of the page). Further, the Motomura et al. reference fails to suggest the desirability of this element of Applicant's invention. The Itoh et al. reference appears to disclose a twisting angle of 240° (Col. 15. Line 40) that is obtained in the absence of a second retardation plate located between a polarizer and a first retardation plate. The Itoh et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest a twist angle range of 230 to 260 degrees that is dependent upon, in part, the positioning of a second retardation plate between a polarizer and a first retardation plate, as claimed by Applicant in Claim 16. The combination of the Motomura et al. and the Itoh et al. references fail to disclose or suggest this feature of Applicant's invention.

Claim 16 further recites, in part, "a minimum and maximum Δnd (product of optical anisotropy Δn and thickness d) of the liquid crystal are 0.85 μm or less and 0.70 μm or more, respectively." The Office Action concedes that the Motomura et al. reference fails to disclose this element of Applicant's invention (See 7/9/03 Office Action

p. 3 – 4). The Motomura et al. reference also fails to suggest this feature of Applicant's invention. The Itoh et al. reference appears to disclose a $\Delta n d$ of between approximately .75 μm and .86 μm (Figure 33) that occurs in the absence of a second retardation plate positioned between a polarizer and a first retardation plate. The Itoh et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest a minimum and maximum $\Delta n d$ of the liquid crystal that is 0.85 μm or less and 0.70 μm or more respectively, the $\Delta n d$ being dependent upon, in part, the presence of a second retardation plate positioned between a polarizer and a first retardation plate, as claimed by Applicants in Claim 16. The combination of the Motomura et al. reference and the Otoh et al. reference fail to disclose or suggest this feature of Applicant's invention.

Claim 16 further recites, in part, " $\Delta n d$ of the first retardation plate is 150 +/- 50nm." The Office Action concedes that the Motomura et al. reference fails to disclose this element of Applicant's invention (See 7/9/03 Office Action at 4, lines 2-3). Further, the Motomura et al. reference fails to suggest this element of Applicant's invention. The Itoh et al. reference fails to disclose a retardation plate. The Itoh et al. reference only discloses a phase plate 19 (Figure 1) having a retardation of 120 nm (Col. 34, Line 40), between either 320 nm to 420 nm (Claim 2) or 540 nm to 680 nm (Claim 3). The Itoh et al. reference fails to disclose, or suggest, a $\Delta n d$ of a retardation plate that is 150 +/- 50nm, the $\Delta n d$ being dependent upon, in part, the presence of a retardation plate having a substrate on one side of the retardation plate and a second retardation plate and a polarizer on another side. The combination of Motomura et al. and Itoh et al. fail to disclose, or render obvious, this element of Applicant's invention.

Claim 16 further recites, in part, a Δ nd of the second retardation plate and angles θ_1 and θ_2 that are related to the second retardation plate. As discussed above, neither the Motomura et al. or the Itoh et al. references disclose, or suggest, the second retardation plate of Applicant's invention. Thus, these references cannot disclose or suggest angles θ_1 and θ_2 of Applicant's invention.

Because the Motomura et al. and the Itoh et al. references fail to disclose, or suggest, any of the above elements of Claim 16 of Applicant's invention, these references fail to render Claim 16, and Claims 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, and 36 dependent therefrom, obvious. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

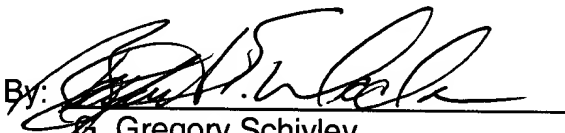
The Examiner states that Claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the patentability of this claim. However, Applicant chooses not to write Claim 24 in independent form at this time because, as described above, Claim 16, from which Claim 24 depends, is not anticipated or obvious in light of the prior art. Therefore, Claim 24 as currently presented is not anticipated or obvious in light of the prior art.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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